(1) to identify those public housing projects in the Nation that are in a severe state of distress:

(2) to assess the most promising strategies to improve the condition of severely distressed public housing projects that have been implemented by public housing authorities, other Government agencies at the Federal, State, and local level, public housing tenants, and the private sector:

(3) to develop a national action plan to eliminate by the year 2000 unfit living conditions in public housing projects determined by the Commission to be the most severely distressed.

SEC. 502. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

There is established a commission to be known as the National Commission on Severely Distressed Public Housing (hereinafter in this title referred to as the "Commission").

SEC. 503. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—(1) The Commission shall be composed of 18 members, appointed not later than 60 days after amounts are appropriated pursuant to section 506 or made available from non-Federal sources. The members shall be as follows:

(3) 6 members to be appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development:

(4) 6 members appointed by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(5) 6 members appointed by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Secretary and the congressional leaders referred to in paragraph (1) shall each appoint as member of the Commission—

(6) 2 individuals who are elected public officials at the Federal, State, or local level:

(7) 2 individuals who are local public housing officials or representatives of public housing authorities with experience in eliminating unfit living conditions in severely distressed public housing projects:

(8) 1 individual who is a tenant or a representative of tenants or a tenant organization; and

(9) 1 individual who is a leader of business or labor or is a distinguished academic in the field of housing and urban development.

(10) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall elect a chairperson from among members of the Commission.

(11) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(12) VOTING.—Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to 1 vote, which shall be equal to the vote of every other member of the Commission.